

TALES OF THE UNUSUAL

STORY/ART BY SUNGDAE OH

EVOLVING REINCARNATION: PART 3







AAAAHH-!!

A black and white photograph of a closed door with a six-panel design. A speech bubble is positioned in the upper right corner of the frame, containing the text 'AAAAHH-!!'. The door has a small circular handle or lock on the left side.

IT'S A.. COCKROACH..



AND THESE
MUST BE...



A COCKROACH'S
ANTENNAS..!

SO IT WASN'T
A DREAM..

STEP

STEP

I CAN'T BELIEVE
THIS IS REALLY
HAPPENING..

HAHAHAHA-I

AH, SORRY FOR LAUGHING.
I SEE YOU'RE WEARING
A HAT TODAY, BYEONGSU.

AH, YEAH...



AT FIRST, WE USED TO
TRY TO COVER OURSELVES
TOO BACK WHEN WE
WEREN'T USED TO ALL THIS.

GO AHEAD AND TAKE
IT OFF. WE'RE THE ONLY
ONES WHO CAN SEE IT
ANYWAY.

WHISH



A person with long dark hair and a cap is shown from the chest up. They are holding a glowing, textured orb in their right hand. Their expression is neutral. The background is a plain, light gray.

AH, SO..



A BUG..I
YOU MUST'VE
KILLED A BUG,
RIGHT?



WELL, BEING
AN ENTOMOLOGIST
MYSELF, IT APPEARS
TO BE A COCKROACH.

YEAH, I ACCIDENTALLY
STEPPED ON ONE
IN THE BATHROOM.



BUT WHY HAVE YOU
ALL BECOME DIFFERENT
ANIMALS?



IT DEPENDS ON YOUR
OWN PERSONAL BELIEFS
AND PREFERENCES.

AND WE'VE ALL CHOSEN
CREATURES THAT ARE EASY
TO KILL BASED ON WHERE
WE LIVE.

I'VE GOT TO FILL A QUOTA
IN ORDER TO BECOME
A COMPLETE MOSQUITO.
IN OTHER WORDS TO
REACH THE "PREPARATION
COMPLETE" STAGE.

BUT I'LL PROBABLY
HAVE TO KILL SEVERAL
THOUSAND MORE
MOSQUITOES TO COMPLETE
MY LEGS AND WINGS.



I WORK IN A
SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

I'VE STILL GOTTA KILL
A FEW HUNDRED DOGS,
BUT BECAUSE OF WHERE
I WORK, THAT SHOULDN'T
BE A PROBLEM.



I CHOSE A BIRD BECAUSE
I WANTED TO SOAR AROUND
IN THE AIR IN MY NEXT LIFE.

I FIGURED, IF I'M GONNA
REINCARNATE, I MIGHT
AS WELL DO IT AS AN
ANIMAL I LIKE.



I JUST WANTED TO LIVE
A QUIET LIFE IN A CAVE
SO I CHOSE A BAT,

I FIGURED THERE'D BE
LESS THREATS IF I LIVED
IN A CAVE, TOO.



WE'VE ALL STARTED OFF
DIFFERENTLY, BUT OUR
ULTIMATE GOAL IS STILL
THE SAME- TO BE REBORN
AS HUMANS.

AH,, I SEE,,



OF COURSE, WE HAVE
NO WAY OF KNOWING
WHAT CREATURE WE'LL
REINCARNATE AS IN THE
NEXT STEP...

BUT AT LEAST YOU CAN
CHOOSE YOUR OWN
BEGINNING.

INSECTS ARE EASY TO KILL, BUT
IT'LL TAKE THAT MUCH LONGER
TO EVOLVE AND REINCARNATE
INTO A HUMAN AGAIN.



OH...

THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE
YOU CHOOSE- IT ALL REALLY
DEPENDS ON YOUR OWN
PERSONAL PREFERENCE.



WHY DON'T YOU TRY
CHANGING INTO SOMETHING
OTHER THAN A COCKROACH?

UNTIL YOU REACH THE
"PREPARATION COMPLETE"
STAGE, YOU CAN CHANGE
CREATURES AS MANY
TIMES AS YOU WANT,

AH...



BUT ONCE YOU FINISH
EVOLVING REINCARNATION,
YOU DON'T DIE OR REINCARNATE
RIGHT AWAY, RIGHT?


YEAH. THIS DOESN'T AFFECT
YOUR LIFESPAN AT ALL.
IT JUST GUARANTEES THAT
YOU'LL REINCARNATE IN
THE NEXT LIFE...



I FEEL LIKE I GET IT,
BUT IT STILL SEEMS
COMPLICATED.

IT'S VERY SIMPLE- IN ORDER
TO BE REBORN AS A HUMAN,
YOU KILL INFERIOR CREATURES
SO THAT YOU'LL BE REBORN AS
THAT CREATURE FIRST.

AND YOU'LL PROGRESSIVELY
EVOLVE INTO HIGHER LIFE
FORMS UNTIL YOU FINALLY
REINCARNATE AS A HUMAN.



AND REMEMBER, IT'S NOT
SOME KIND OF RELIGION-
BUT YOU CAN CALL OUR GROUP
"THE EVOLVING REINCARNATION
GATHERING."

OKAY..



AHI WOULD YOU LIKE TO
SEE WHAT OUR GROUP'S
LEADER LOOKS LIKE?

YOUR LEADER?

FOLLOW ME.


TAP

TAP

THIS IS OUR
LEADER.



HE'S GOT THAT SIGN...
ON HIS FOREHEAD...



HE'S THE ONE WHO CREATED
THE EVOLVING REINCARNATION
METHOD, AND IS CURRENTLY IN THE
PROCESS OF DOING IT HIMSELF.

T-THEN YOU MEAN HE'S
BEEN ALIVE FOR AT LEAST
A FEW CENTURIES?

YEAH. AS FAR AS I KNOW,
HE'S ALREADY REINCARNATED
SEVERAL TIMES AS A HUMAN,



WE'RE NOT SURE IF HE'S
IN HUMAN FORM NOW OR
IF HE'S EVOLVING...

BUT HE'S ALWAYS
SOMEWHERE IN THE
WORLD.



HE MAY BE WATCHING
EVERYTHING RIGHT NOW.

AND THERE'S A RULE
THAT HE MADE..



IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A PEACEFUL
COEXISTENCE BETWEEN HUMAN
SOCIETY AND THE EVOLVING
REINCARNATION METHOD..



MURDER IS STRICTLY
PROHIBITED...



IN THEORY. KILLING PEOPLE
WOULD MEAN YOU COULD
REINCARNATE AS A PERSON
RIGHT AWAY.



AH... I WAS JUST
WONDERING ABOUT
THAT BEFORE...



BUT THERE ARE NO
KNOWN CASES OF
THAT YET.

AND REALISTICALLY SPEAKING,
IT'D BE VERY DIFFICULT. NOWADAYS,
YOU'D BE MORE LIKELY TO GET
ARRESTED BEFORE YOU MANAGE
TO FILL YOUR QUOTA.


PLUS, THE LEADER SAID
HE WOULD SEVERELY
PUNISH ANYONE WHO
BREAKS THIS RULE.

OF COURSE..



ALSO, REMEMBER THAT
COMMITTING SUICIDE
MEANS YOU WON'T
REINCARNATE AND WILL BE
DESTROYED FOREVER.

RIGHT..




ALSO, IF YOU START AS
A COCKROACH, IT COULD TAKE
SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS FOR
YOU TO RETURN AS A HUMAN.

SO EVEN IF IT'S NOT EASY,
IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO TRY
AND KILL HIGHER LIFE FORMS
SO YOU CAN REDUCE YOUR
REINCARNATING TIME.



ANYWAY...
SINCE I'VE CHOSEN A BIRD,
I'VE HAD TO KILL COUNTLESS
BIRDS UNTIL NOW.

MY LEGS ARE STILL
THE SAME THOUGH,
BECAUSE I HAVEN'T
FILLED THE QUOTA.



IF I BECOME A COMPLETE
BIRD, IT MEANS THAT I HAVE FILLED
THE QUOTA FOR EVOLVING
REINCARNATION. WE CALL IT THE
"PREPARATION COMPLETE" STAGE.



THEN I WON'T HAVE TO
KILL ANY MORE.

ON THE OTHER HAND,
WHILE KILLING INFERIOR
CREATURES IS EASY, IT TAKES
THAT MUCH LONGER FOR YOU TO
REINCARNATE AS A HUMAN.

BUT NO ONE CAN SAY
WHICH IS BETTER. IT ALL
DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU
WANT.

NUMBER OF CREATURES TO KILL



TIME CONSUMED

AH, I UNDERSTAND
IT ALL NOW.

To be continued..



AN EFFICIENT WAY
TO KILL..?